Many will now have trouble paying credit card bills

The outbreak may have you in a cash crunch, but you don't have to ruin your credit. **In Money**

Two moms go head to head in 'Little Fires Everywhere'

Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington serve up some soapy '90s-era escapism. **In Life**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | $2 | **WEEKEND** | MARCH 20-22, 2020

CANDACE KAISER

Americans say they feel 'abandoned' abroad

Hundreds are marooned far from home and are desperate to get back, but they say the U.S. government isn't helping them. **Nation's Health**

E2

USA TODAY INVESTIGATION

Johannah Lancaster's son, Gregory, got seven root canals when he was 3.
JEFF SWENSEN/FOR USA TODAY

Some dentists driven by dollars

Private investors profit from overtreatment

David Heath USA TODAY
Mark Greenblatt and Aysha Bagchi
Newsy

Johannah Lancaster took her 3-year-old son to Dental Express for his first checkup, expecting a routine cleaning.

She never imagined the treatment plan the dentist in Niles, Ohio, would come up with after he peeked into Gregory's mouth for what seemed like only two or three minutes.

Michael Griesmer said the preschooler needed root canals – seven of them. Stunned, Lancaster asked why he had not even taken X-rays. Griesmer told her they weren't necessary.

"I figured he is a professional, so I trusted him," she recalls. "If I knew then what I know now, I would have never gone through with any of it."

Two weeks later, in May 2013, the dentist put Gregory under and drilled his teeth. The Medicaid bill came to $1,273, compared with the $61 that Medicaid would have paid for a checkup and cleaning.

What Lancaster didn't know then: Dental Express was part of North

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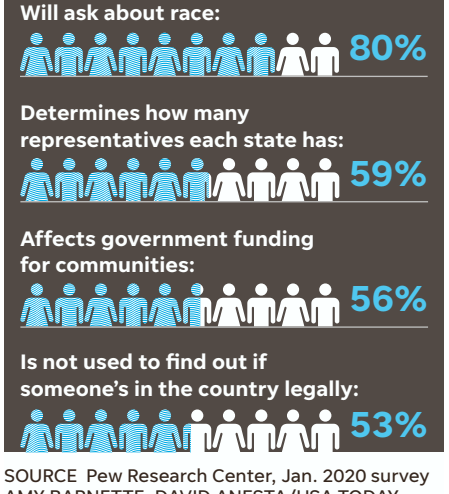
USA TODAY Snapshots

What the census does

The percentage of U.S. adults who correctly say the 2020 census ...



SOURCE Pew Research Center, Jan. 2020 survey
AMY BARNETTE, DAVID ANESTA/USA TODAY

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Labs, and Congress, racing for answers

Vaccine, treatments in works; lawmakers consider remote voting

Mike Mastrian, director of the Senate Radio and Television Gallery, wipes down the podium Tuesday before a news conference on Capitol Hill led by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. SUSAN WALSH/AP

Rules clash with virus guidelines

Nicholas Wu and Ledyard King
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Congress is in a race against the coronavirus – and not just to help Americans confront the global pandemic.

The virus is starting to prevent the world's greatest deliberative body from deliberating.

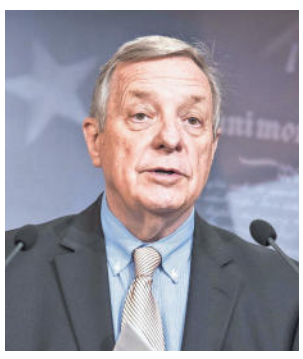
On Wednesday, two House members, Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., and Ben McAdams, D-Utah, announced they had tested positive for COVID-19. More than a dozen members are self-quarantining in their homes. Many staffers are staying away from the Capitol. Offices have been shuttered.

Suddenly the idea of changing foundational congressional rules to allow voting from remote locations rather than all together has become a serious proposition in a body that prides itself on following time-honored customs.

"The Senate is a pretty tradition-bound place," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, the second most powerful Republican in the chamber. "But these are extraordinary circumstances."

Senate rules require a senator to be physically

See CONGRESS, Page 2A



SARAH SILBIGER/GETTY IMAGES

"We need to bring voting in the Senate into the 21st century so that our important work can continue even under extraordinary circumstances."
Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

Scientists in all-out effort to find vaccine

Elizabeth Weise
USA TODAY

As illness and death linked to the new coronavirus accelerate across the U.S., federal officials are looking to existing and new treatments to battle the disease, while at the same time researchers worldwide race to develop a vaccine.

At a news conference Thursday, President Donald Trump said that the malaria drug chloroquine and the experimental antiviral drug remdesevir are being tested as possible COVID-19 therapies and could slow the epidemic.

"It could have a very positive effect, or a positive effect, maybe not very, but maybe positive," Trump said. "It's very, very exciting."

Currently, doctors have no estab-

See VACCINE, Page 2A

AMERICA RESPONDS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

The world's death toll from the coronavirus passed 9,700 on Thursday afternoon, including more than 150 people in nearly half of U.S. states. Emerging evidence of the vulnerability of younger people raised new fears of the potential magnitude of the outbreak in the United States.

With more than 235,000 confirmed cases worldwide, the State Department warned Americans not to travel abroad, Queen Elizabeth II left London for Windsor Castle, and the U.S. and Mexico moved toward a ban on nonessential cross-border travel. President Donald Trump signaled he could be open to the federal government taking an equity stake in affected U.S. companies.

- In Italy, the more than 3,400 deaths surpassed those reported in China, reflecting how the pandemic has crippled the European country. A USA TODAY data analysis finds that America may be following a similar trajectory.
- Millennials should take the threat seriously, the administration warned, bolstered by new data showing about one in five people who sought treatment at U.S. hospitals were 20 to 44 years old.
- We may not see new therapies designed for treating the virus for three to six months, though the FDA is looking at several approved drugs. A vaccine? Maybe 12 months away. Trump expressed optimism about two drugs researchers are studying.
- The Trump administration wants $1,000 per adult and $500 per child to go out within three weeks of the stimulus package's approval, followed by an additional $3,000 six weeks later, if needed. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin also wants $300 billion for small businesses and $200 billion to secure lending to airlines and other critical industries.
- New jobless claims jumped last week as employers reacted to evaporating demand. Markets stabilized Thursday as the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 188 points to close at 20,087.

– Matt Leclercq